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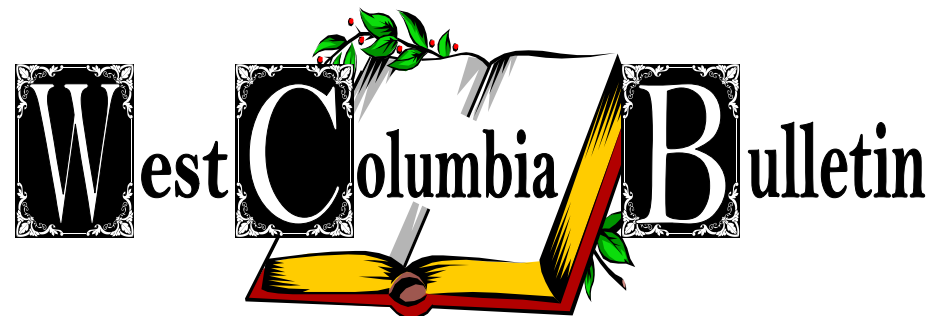
also teaches that unborn children are living human beings (Genesis 25:22-23; Luke 1:41, 44).

I have to admit that I never saw this one coming. Don't get me wrong, I'm delighted, but I am shocked that mothers can abandon their God-given maternal instinct so easily and will assassinate their own offspring. And, they do it while claiming they are making a noble choice with excuses like: *"My baby would be born deformed"* or *"I am poor and wouldn't be able to support my baby."* I knew I was the *"father of lies"* (John 8:44), but I never thought I would ever succeed in breaking down the motherly instinct of women, which even mindless beasts display with aggression – the instinct to protect the lives of their young. Still, statistics don't lie. There were 42.3 million babies slaughtered by abortion worldwide in 2019 (www.worldometer.info). Now *that's* a pandemic folks! Yours truly has been able to influence millions of mothers for several decades to reject the most natural of affections – motherhood (Romans 1:31).

As I survey the world, I still can't believe it! After several thousand years of back breaking work all I have to do now is sit here and let humans reject God on their own. Yes, I am happy to take credit. "Credit where credit is due," as they say. My tireless work of temptation and false teaching has weakened mankind, and the whole thing is spiraling out of control because man has rejected His creator (Romans 1:28).

If ever there was a golden age for the devil, this is it. The world of 2020 makes my "heyday" during the Roman Empire seem like a morality play. I love it! Well, time for me to sign off for now. I'm so pleased with the evil that men have embraced that I think I will just do a jig.

- The Devil



August 23, 2020

A PAGE FROM THE DEVILS DIARY

David Weaks

Dear Diary,

I just can't believe how great things are in 2020! I have spent thousands of years trying to destroy mankind with little success. I thought I had the whole shebang destroyed with a single swift blow when I tempted Eve, but, no, humanity continued right along, and to top it off I got a warning from God that Eve's seed would someday crush my head (Genesis 3:15)! Just over a thousand years later I was on the cusp of victory once again, anticipating the complete destruction of mankind by God himself. I had corrupted humans so badly that God decided to destroy the whole world in a flood (Genesis 6:3-7). But, wouldn't you know it, God saved eight souls by commanding one

righteous man named Noah to build an ark for the saving of his household (Hebrews 11:7 Genesis 6:8-21; 1 Peter 3:20). So for the next several thousand years I constantly walked about seeking whom I might devour (1 Peter 5:8).

Oh, and then there was that smart-alek, Job. He turned out to be one tough nut to crack and I simply couldn't break him. I had been certain I could destroy his faith, but it turned out God was right. Job was an *"upright man, one who feared God and shunned evil"* (Job 1:8; 2:3). I threw everything I had at him but nothing worked. He simply responded to his terrible losses by humbling himself and honoring God (Job 1:21-22; 2:10). I must grudgingly admit that Job was something else. You don't find

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Church of Christ

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many believers like him anymore.

Don't get me wrong, I have had *plenty* of success over the millennia. I have tempted and corrupted the hearts of untold billions of people, and on the judgment day I will be more than satisfied that all of those people will lose their souls because of me. But nothing, *AND I MEAN NOTHING*, that I have done can hold a candle to what humans in the year 2020 are doing to themselves. My efforts over the centuries are finally paying off in spades.

I have never had it so easy. All I have to do these days is sit here and watch and marvel at man's ability to reject God over the silliest things. A virus spreads across the planet and people forget about their souls and worry inordinately about their earthly lives. They shut down worship services for months on end, unlike Christians of the first century who continued steadfastly in worship, even when persecution and the threat of death was against them (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:23-25; Revelation 2:10).

Christians now obsess that no one is "taking this virus seriously!" They seem to have forgotten to care that many millions more people *aren't taking sin seriously* (Romans 3:23; 6:23; 1 John 3:4). No wonder the membership in

churches of Christ has declined over the years. Christians have finally succumbed to my influence, and they now think more about this life than they do the next one (1 John 2:15).

Long ago it was much harder for me. Christians lived their lives for heaven. They looked forward to going to their true home (Philippians 3:20), and they all seem to have known that they were only "*pilgrims and strangers*" on earth (1 Peter 2:11-12). Now, it seems like all Christians talk about is Facebook, entertainment, politics, the presidential election, and the coronavirus. Very seldom do you hear them talking about how frightening it is that millions of people will die unprepared for eternity and will spend eternity in hell rather than heaven (Revelation 21:8). I have been particularly keen to stoke this neglectful thinking. Hey, more lost souls for me!

Just when I think my influence couldn't be more corrupting, I find that humans are rampaging across the land, fighting one another, cursing one another, burning down buildings, looting, and even killing one another, all over an argument about whose lives matter. People are biting and devouring one another in the name of showing who is more loving than who

(Galatians 5:14-15). It tickles my funny bone to watch people riot, scream profanities, throw bricks, threaten police, and beat up innocent people as they oppose what they call "hate." What delicious irony!

In another stunning sign of my success, humans have thrown away God's design for marriage and the home, and they now champion homosexuality and sodomy as a basic human right. Can you believe it?!? God instituted marriage at the beginning of time with Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:24). Right from the start, marriage involved a man and a woman, not a man, for Adam's helper. Throughout the Bible this original pattern for marriage is referenced again and again (Matthew 19:5; Mark 10:6-8; 1 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 5:31). The Bible also clearly condemns homosexuality. Paul the apostle calls it "*vile passions*" and states that it is "*against nature*" and that it leads to all manner of evil (Romans 1:26-32). In fact, God punctuated the point with a pretty powerful exclamation point when He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for the sin of homosexuality (see: Genesis 19:1-25).

However, in spite of all of this clear teaching by God, I have been able, with subtlety (Genesis

3:1), to convince mankind to reject these natural truths and to embrace what is vile. Homosexuality is now so popular in the world that denominational churches have rapidly shifted their theology to embrace homosexuals and their practices. What used to be considered gospel preaching about this particular sin has been rebranded by humans as "hate speech." Am I good, or what? Actually, I guess I can't take all of the credit. Edmund Burke, famous Irish philosopher once said: "*The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.*" Right on, Eddie, my boy! The haunting and frightened silence in pulpits on the subject of sin and the authority of God is as much responsible for the world's embrace of sodomy as anything I ever did to promote it. I am sure it is only a matter of time until some church of Christ falls in line and embraces homosexuality. I will keep working on that.

Humans have collectively murdered billions of unborn babies and they celebrate it as a woman's right to choose. This might be one of my proudest achievements! I must be better at my job than I thought, because the Bible could not be clearer on this matter. Murder is plainly defined as a sin (Exodus 20:13; Romans 13:9; 1 Peter 4:15). The Bible